

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184013

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO

SUBJECT:MBFR: COMMON NATO FACILITY IN VIENNA

REFS: A. USNATO 4260, B. USNATO 4286

1. IT IS HIGHLY REGRETTABLE THAT STRUDELHOF NO LONGER APPEARS AVAILABLE FOR USE AS COMMON NATO FACILITY IN VIENNA. IN LIGHT OF BUDGETARY PROBLEMS (STATE 182158) WE QUESTION DESIRABILITY OF GUMPENDORFERSTRASSE SITE, ON GROUNDS OF HIGHER RENT AND SECURITY GUARD REQUIREMENTS.

2. THE RENNWEG SITE DOES NOT APPEAR USEABLE OWING TO SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AND COST OF REDECORATION.

3. WE SUGGEST THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE BEST
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COURSE MAY BE FOR THE BELGIANS TO GO BACK TO THE OWNERS

OF THE STRUDELHOF, PERHAPS RECRUITING THE ASSISTANCE OF THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN OFFICE, IN THE EFFORT TO BRING OWNERS TO RECONSIDER THEIR WITHDRAWAL OF THE PROPERTY.

4. IN LIGHT OF BUDGETARY PROBLEMS (STATE 182158), PRESENT IS PERSONNEL PLANS CONTAINED REF A MAY BE EXCESSIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, REDUCTIONS MIGHT BE MADE IN SUCH SLOTS AS A DEPUTY TO THE HEAD OF THE IS SECTION, TWO POSITIONS FOR REGISTRY, OR IN TOTAL OF 15 GUARDS. (THE US PLANS A MARINE

DETAIL OF 6 MEN FOR ITS PREMISES OF APPROXIMATELY THE SAME SIZE.) WHEN THE 4-MAN COMMUNICATIONS UNIT IS ADDED TO THE REMAINING PLANNED IS PERSONNEL, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AND ATTENDANT COSTS BECOMES VERY HIGH, COMING CLOSE TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR.

5. FYI: WE ARE BEGINNING TO QUESTION WHETHER THE ENTIRE COMMON FACILITIES PROJECT IS NOT TOO UNWIELDY AND AMBITIOUS. WE COULD IN PINCH PROVIDE CONFERENCE ROOM FACILITIES AND OTHERS COULD PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS. REDUCED NATO STAFF COULD OPERATE IN HOTEL, OFFICE SUITE, OR PRIVATE RESIDENCE. WE HOPE THIS CONCLUSION WILL EMERGE FROM FURTHER DISCUSSION IF STRUDELHOF, WHICH DOES APPEAR SUITABLE FOR COMMON FACILITY, TURNS OUT TO BE DEFINITELY EXCLUDED. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD LET OTHERS TAKE LEAD IN MAKING POINTS OF THIS KIND, SUPPORTING THEM AS APPROPRIATE. END FYI.
RUSH

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